

Serial No. 09/898,019
Amdt. dated December 2, 2003
Reply to Office Action of September 5, 2003

Docket No. IK-0022

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 6-9, 12, 14, 15 and 17-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification is amended. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and objection in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

I. Allowed Claims

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 6-9, 12, 14, 15 and 17-19 are allowed. However, for at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. Specification

The Office Action objects to the specification. In particular, the Office Action alleges that the specification does not include a sufficient description of the claimed limitation "a cooling air flow path between the inlet port and the outlet port defining a substantially straight line therebetween." Applicant notes that the specification has been amended to more clearly set forth that the flow of air for cooling the electric equipment is linearly formed in a substantially straight line between the suction grill 50 and the suction port 41. The arrangements described in the amended portions of the specification are clearly shown in originally filed figures 2 and 3. Thus, the specification changes do not add any new matter. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

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III. Claim Rejection 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejects claims 20-25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that an example of an embodiment of the subject matter of claim 20 is shown in Figure 3. In Figure 3, a microwave oven is shown having an electric equipment installation chamber 30 including a suction grill 50 forming a front wall of the electric equipment installation chamber 30 and a suction inlet 41 disposed on a sidewall towards a rear of the electric equipment installation chamber 30. A magnetron 65 is disposed in the electric equipment installation chamber 30 proximate the suction inlet 41. Applicant notes that the suction grill 50 forms a substantial portion of the front wall of the electric equipment installation chamber 30 and the suction inlet 41 is disposed near a rear corner of the electric equipment installation chamber 30.

The positioning of the suction grill 50 and the suction inlet 41 relative to one another creates multiple straight air flow paths through the electric equipment installation chamber 30. For example, there is a straight air flow path from the suction grill 50 to the entrance of the suction inlet 41 which is substantially parallel to the sidewall having the suction inlet 41. Another example is the straight air flow path from a front right corner of the electric equipment installation chamber 30 to the entrance of the suction inlet 41 which is diagonal across the electric equipment installation chamber 30. Applicant notes that there are numerous other

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straight air flow paths through the electric equipment installation chamber 30 in addition to the two examples discussed above.

Each of the air flow paths discussed above describes a substantially straight air flow path from the suction grill 50 to the entrance to the suction inlet 41. Accordingly, the application has sufficient support for a microwave oven having a cooling air flow path between an inlet port and an outlet port defining a substantially straight line therebetween, as set forth in claim 20. Thus, claim 20 is in allowable condition. Claims 21-25 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 20, from which they depend, as well as for their added features. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 20-25 be withdrawn.

VI. Conclusion

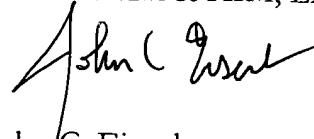
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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